

NORTHERN REGION QI COMMITTEE

Project: Placement Disruptions

Recommendations & Responses

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that Northern Region develop a system to give foster parents more help and support. When a foster parent receives a child, the region should consider giving the foster parents such information as...
 - a. Crises phone numbers and names
 - b. A description of how to address concerns and problems within the region.
This description should contain names and phone numbers.
 - c. Literature related specifically to the child and family needs.
 - d. Names of other foster parents who would be willing to give advice
**The information should be presented in a manner that is quickly understood and easily read.*
2. Northern Region should develop a system to better track and respond to when the relationship between caseworker and foster parent deteriorates.
3. Northern Region should develop forums for foster parents, family members and caseworkers to better understand what the group is doing.
4. Northern Region trainers should evaluate the Behavior Replacement Model Training (BMRT) for its usefulness and update this curriculum to meet current research and needs of structured foster parents.

Responses:

1.
 - a – The on-call numbers and community emergency numbers will be compiled and distributed with the out of home book at the time of placement.
 - b. – A list of the caseworker, supervisor, Child Welfare Supervisor, Associate Region Director and Region Director as well as contact information will be added to the out of home book as well.
 - c. – There are websites that contain information regarding specific diagnosis or problem behaviors. These websites are available on the Foster Care Foundation website. We can also look at including them in the packet.
 - d. – This will have to be done through the Foster Care Foundation Cluster Groups. DCFS can certainly ask our Resource Family Consultants to talk with the foster parents and get their permission to be called. However, the best source for this may well be through the cluster facilitators.
2. Melonie Brown, CWA over the Resource Family Consultants (RFC), has come up with the following procedure: If the RFC receives any concerning information about

the relationship between the caseworker and the foster parent, they will instruct the foster parent to contact the caseworker and discuss the issue. If the foster parent refuses to contact the caseworker or does not contact the caseworker (the RFC will follow up with the foster parent to make sure that they were able to talk about their concerns with their caseworker), then the RFC will go to the caseworker with the specific information. The RFC will encourage the caseworker and foster parent to work together to resolve the situation. If the problem is not resolved or the foster parent does not feel like they have received what they need to proceed further, then the RFC will instruct the foster parent to contact the caseworker's supervisor. Once again, if the foster parent does not contact the supervisor to work on the solution, then the RFC will go to the supervisor for help. If that does not work out, the RFC will move up the chain and contact the CWA, etc. (Carol Baumann, Region Director, will be following up on this to see how well this works.)

3. This has been accomplished. The forums that were held throughout the region, bringing foster parents and caseworkers together, have been very successful. It is our plan to take the information gathered and use it to better our practices.
4. This is currently in progress. This is a state-wide initiative and should be completed by December 1, 2009.

DCFS would like to thank the committee for the time and effort they have put into this very important area of concern.